



FINANCIAL AID DEVELOPMENTS

By Kim Slote, policy analyst

REFERENCE GUIDES

The updated reference guides below were published by the USDE in the month of August. The guides listed are linked with the corresponding electronic announcement and the date of publication.

- [2015-2016 Federal Student Aid Handbook Appendices – Aug 3, 2015](#)
- [2015-2016 COD Technical Reference \(Aug. 2015 Update\) – Aug. 19, 2015](#)
- [NSLDS Gainful Employment User Guide \(Aug. 2015\) – Aug. 20, 2015](#)
- [Volume 2 – School Eligibility and Operations \(2015-2016 FSA Handbook\) – Aug. 25, 2015](#)

FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE LIST

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE Aug. 3, 2015: 2015-2016 Federal School Code List of Participating Schools (Aug. 2015). The updated [Federal School Code List](#) includes schools participating in the Title IV federal student aid programs and the unique codes assigned to them by the U. S. Department of Education. These codes are used by students to indicate which postsecondary schools will receive the processed application results from their Free Application for Federal

Student Aid. Instructions are given in the announcement for updating your school's FSC information.

FEDERAL NEED ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

On Aug. 5, 2015, the USDE issued an [Electronic Announcement](#): Federal Need Analysis Methodology for the 2016-2017 Award Year – Correction Notice. The yearly statutory update to the tables used in the Federal Need Analysis Methodology was published in a [Federal Register Notice May 27, 2015](#). Information from these tables is used in determining a student's expected family contribution. The USDE has since discovered an error in the Education Savings and Asset Protection Allowance tables or "APA Tables." A [Federal Register Notice](#): Correction to the Federal Need Analysis Methodology for the 2016-2017 Award Year was issued with corrected tables Aug. 4, 2015.

EXPERIMENTAL SITES INITIATIVE

The USDE issued a [Federal Register Notice](#) Aug. 4, 2015: Notice Inviting Postsecondary Educational Institutions To Participate in Experiments Under the Experimental Sites Initiative. Institutions that participate in the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher



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Education Act of 1965, as amended, are invited to participate in the following experiment under the Experimental Sites Initiative.

- Pell Grants for Students who are Incarcerated in State or Federal penal institutions

Letters of application must be received by the USDE no later than Oct. 2, 2015, for an institution to receive priority consideration for participation in the experiment.

Instructions on how to apply are given in the Federal Register, along with more detailed information on this experiment.

SUPPLEMENTAL CAMPUS-BASED FUNDS

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE Aug. 5, 2015: 2015-2016 Supplemental Campus-Based Funds. Information is provided on how 2015-2016 supplemental award funds for each Campus-Based program will be distributed and how schools will be notified. Since there were no new Perkins Loan funds appropriated for the 2014-2015 Award Year, no Perkins Loan funds will be available through the supplemental award process for the 2015-2016 Award Year.

RESOURCES

On Aug. 7, 2015, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): Information About Teacher Cancellation Low-Income Directory Updates. Schools were advised that an email was sent to states reminding them to submit their updated lists of low-income schools and education service agencies to be included in the Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits. The directory is available at <https://www.tcli.ed.gov> and is also known as the Teacher Cancellation Low-Income Directory or TCLI Directory. Eligibility of teachers for loan cancellation with the Perkins Loan Program and loan forgiveness with the FFEL Program and Direct Loan Program is determined using the list of schools and educational service agencies that serve low-income families in the TCLI Directory. Schools may use the TCLI Directory when counseling students who are planning to become teachers. A copy of the email to the states is attached to this announcement.

GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT

The USDE published two electronic announcements in Aug. regarding NSLDS Gainful Employment Program reporting and tracking functionality. Links to these



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announcements and the Gainful Employment Information-Resources page are as follows:

- [Aug. 10, 2015 – Gainful Employment Announcement #58-NSLDS Reporting for Gainful Employment Programs Discontinued Prior to the Effective Date of the Regulations](#)
- [Aug. 20, 2015 – Gainful Employment Electronic Announcement #59-New NSLDS Gainful Employment Program Tracking Functionality](#)
- [IFAP – Gainful Employment Information - Resources](#)

FAFSA

A [Federal Register Notice](#) was issued by the USDE Aug. 12, 2015: Comment Request: 2016-2017 Federal Student Aid Application. The USDE is requesting comments on proposed, revised and continuing collections of information related to the 2016-2017 Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Information and instructions for submitting comments are provided in the notice. Comments must be received on or before Oct. 13, 2015.

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE Aug. 13, 2015: Notice of the

Draft 2016-2017 Federal Student Aid Application Materials. Draft versions of the proposed 2016-2017 application forms, including the FAFSA and Student Aid Report are available for public comment. Information on submitting comments is included in the Federal Register Notice mentioned above.

PROGRAM INTEGRITY Q&A

The USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) Aug. 13, 2015: Program Integrity Questions and Answers (Q&A) Website Update. Q&A DOC-Q2/A2 on the verification portion of the website was recently updated. To view updates go to the [Program Integrity Website](#) and look for bolded revised dates on the questions and answers under applicable topics that have been modified.

TRAINING

On Aug. 14, 2015, the USDE published a Dear Colleague Letter [ANN-15-12](#): Online Training Module-Completing the 2016-2017 FISAP. This training module is available on the Federal Student Aid E-Training website, which is located at <http://fsatraining.info>. Instructions for accessing the training are provided in the DCL. The FISAP must be submitted no later than Oct. 1, 2015 by schools that participate in the Federal



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Perkins Loan Program, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program and Federal Work-Study Program.

TECHNICAL

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE Aug. 14, 2015: Availability of EDEExpress for Windows 2015-2016, Release 3.0. Upgrades provided in EDEExpress for Windows 2015-2016, Release 3.0, implement enhancements to the functionality of the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet for the 2015-2016 award cycle and resolve several software issues in the Direct Loan module from the prior release. The new version is available for download at <https://fsadownload.ed.gov>.

FSA DATA CENTER

The USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) Aug. 20, 2015: Federal Student Aid Posts Updated Reports to FSA Data Center. The [FSA Data Center](#) is a centralized online source for Federal Student Aid data. The application, loan, grant and portfolio reports are updated by Federal Student Aid quarterly. The reports recently posted reflect activity as of June 30, 2015. The announcement outlines the reports available, along with several key findings based on those reports.

PROPRIETARY INSTITUTIONS

On Aug. 20, 2015, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): Liaison for Proprietary Institutions of Higher Education. The USDE Liaison for Proprietary Institutions of Higher Education has retired as of Aug. 28, 2015. Until this position is filled, proprietary institutions with policy questions or issues should contact their regional [School Participation Team](#).

PELL GRANTS

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE Aug. 25, 2015: Second Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance Payments for 2014-2015 Award Year. The announcement explains which students a school is eligible to receive ACA payments for and indicates the funds may only be used to defray the costs of administering the Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study and Federal Perkins Loan programs. The USDE began processing the second ACA payments for all schools on Aug. 24, 2015 and includes those records processed by the COD System from March 9, 2014. Contact information is provided for those schools that need assistance regarding their ACA payments.



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The USDE published another [Electronic Announcement](#) on Aug. 25, 2015: Third and Final Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance Payment for 2013-2014 Award Year. This announcement provides much of the same information as the announcement above. However, it indicates the third and final ACA payments for the 2013-2014 award year will be deposited for all schools beginning on Aug. 24, 2015 and includes those records processed by the COD System from Aug. 25, 2014. Contact information is provided for those schools that need assistance regarding their ACA payments.

FISAP

On Aug. 26, 2015, an [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE: Reminder – Oct. 1, 2015 Deadline for Submitting FISAP. The Fiscal Operations Report for 2014-2015 and the Application to Participate for 2016-2017 for the Federal Perkins Loan, FSEOG and FWS programs must be submitted on or before Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2015, with the required Signature Pages. Additional information and instructions are included in the announcement.

SEQUESTER REQUIRED CHANGES

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE Aug. 26, 2015: Reminder –

Direct Loan Origination Fee Change Oct. 1, 2015. Information provided in this letter reflects sequester required decreases to loan fees in the Direct Loan Program where a first disbursement is on or after Oct. 1, 2015. Origination loan fees charged to borrowers for Direct Subsidized, Direct Unsubsidized and Direct Plus Loans, with a first disbursement made on or after Oct. 1, 2015, and before Oct. 1, 2016, will be reduced to the following percentage:

- Direct Subsidized 1.068%
- Direct Unsubsidized 1.068%
- Direct Plus 4.272%